(b) whether Government propose to contemplate action to ease the situation and provide edible oil at an affordable price to poor consumers ; and

(c) what is the present price per kg. of groundnut oil in Rajkot and Ahmedabad and the price which prevailed in October, 1989 and what are the reasons for the same ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government had instructed NDDB to buy groundnut pods as well as groundnut oil in such a manner that groundnut farmers get incentive prices. Accordingly, NDDB purchased Groundnut pods and oil immediately after the Kharif harvest from November, 1989 and stopped purchases in the last week of January, 1990. The purchase of edible oil by NDDB is only a small fraction of the edible oil bought by the trade. Thus, NDDB can not be held responsible for increase in prices of groundnut oil.

(b) Imported edible oil at affordable rate is being provided through the public distribution system ; and during March, 1990, Government have stepped up the allocation to Public Distribution System to 35,000 tonnes.

(c) (Rs./Kg.)

	Rajkot	Ahmedabad
March, 1990 (7-3-90)	26.50	26.50
Oct., 1989 (31-10-89)	24.00	24.00

The prices are higher partly due to somewhat lower crop of groundnut this year.

New machines installed in Govt. of India Press, Minto Raod, New Delhi

583. SHRI DURGA PRASAD JAMUDA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various kinds of new machineries have been installed in Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi, for the new project; and

(b) if so, the date of installation of each new machine alongwith the name of each new machine cost and production capacity of each new machine according to Government norms, staff sanctioned shift-wise, names of the Operators employed shift-wise and Work-dockets prepared by each operator since the installation of new machine for the said Project ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information regarding the name, date of installation, cost and production capacity of each new machine is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 24] Staff sanctioned in the Press is also enclosed. [*See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 25]. It is not possible to give the staff sanctioned shift-wise and the names of the operators employed shift-wise as the employees are deployed in two shifts normally as per the requirement in each shift and are rotated periodically. As such no specific staff is sanctioned for each shift. As far as work dockets per operator is concerned regularly appointed operators by and large give the stipulated out put.